

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 DHA-02
/103 W

-----102530 182144Z /64

R 181633Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5951

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11683

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, APER
SUBJ: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: STATE 148782

1. U.S. EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY FULLY
IN CONCONANCE WITH SITUATION IN ITALY. WHILE THERE ARE
FEW SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTIONS (E.G. CERTAIN LOS MATTERS,
POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA), GREAT MAJORITY OF FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES ARE EXAMINED, DECSIIONS TAKEN AND PROGRAMS
EXECUTED IN MULTILATERAL CONTEXTS AND FORA. THESE MULTI-
LATERAL CONTEXTS AND FORA ARE LARGEY EUROPEAN/WESTERN
ONES, E.G. EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND NATO. TYPICAL
REACTION OF GOI TO FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS AND ISSUES
IS TO SOUND OUT OTHER MEMBERS OF RELEVANT GROUP AS A
FIRST STEP.

2. GOI VIEWS TEND TO BE CONGRUENT WITH OURS, AND ITALIAN
LEADERS ARE GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO BE HELPFUL TO U.S.
INTERESTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, REAL OR PERCEIVED, LEAD THE
ITALIANS CONSISTENTLY TOWARD CONFORTABLE CONSENSUS,
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AND AWAY FROM BOLD OR EXPOSED POSITIONS. UNLESS
PARTICULAR ITALIAN INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED, IT IS
RATHER DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE GOI TO ADOPT STRONG
POSITION, PARTICULARLY ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. IN
ADDITION, WHEN THERE IS CONFLICT BETWEEN U.S. AND EC
POSITIONS, GOI WILL SELDOM OPT FOR U.S. SIDE.

3. TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN INTERESTS IN MULTILATERAL SETTINGS, TO TRANSLATE GENERALIZED ITALIAN AGREEMENT WITH US INTO SPECIFIC ACTIVISM ON TOUGH ISSUES, WE SHOULD:

A. CONSULT EARLY AND WELL. TIME OUR APPROACHES TO CATCH GOI POLICIES IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE SO THAT OUR VIEWS WILL BE PRELUDE, NOT POSTSCRIPT, TO DECISION. LAST MINUTE OR ILL-PREPARED INTERVENTIONS DO NOT HELP, THEY HURT.

B. BE SELECTIVE. HIGH-LEVEL APPROACHES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH WOULD ELICIT GOI SUPPORT VIS-A-VIS OTHER STATES, SHOULD

BEAR ON CASES WHERE ITALIAN RELEVANCE, WEIGHT OR SPECIAL INTEREST IS CLEAR. THE ITALIANS WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE BE FAR MORE PRONE TO MAKE THE U.S. CASE IN MOGADISCIO THAN IN, SAY, LUSAKA.

C. GIVE THE EMBASSY MAXIMUM POSSIBLE DISCRETION ON LEVEL AND TIMING OF DEMARCHE. GOI ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY IS LIMITED; IN PAST WE HAVE FOUND THAT TOO FREQUENT APPROACHES HAVE PRODUCED NOT ONLY ZERO BUT POSSIBLY NEGATIVE RETURNS. IN CASES OF LESSER IMPORTANCE TO U.S., EMBASSY SHOULD WHENEVER POSSIBLE BE LEFT DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER MATTER SHOULD BE RAISED FORMALLY OR CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMALLY, INDEED AS TO WHETHER IT SHOULD BE RAISED AT ALL. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770256-0434
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, APER, XX
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